

Generation of Human Motor Neurons

Product

A fast and scalable process to generate human motor neurons

Value Propositions

 Patient-specific, fast, and scalable production of pure and functional human motor neurons.

Market

- Drug development tool
- Determine conditions that affect motor neurons
- Screen compounds to treat MNDs

Intellectual Property

 PCT stage application: WO2021189043 - A fast and scalable mammalian motor neuron differentiation system

Publication

 Hudish et al, Modeling Hypoxia-Induced Neuropathies Using a Fast and Scalable Human Motor Neuron Differentiation System

Status

- Demonstrated scalable production of functionality confirmed motor neurons
- Available for evaluation, licensing and partnering opportunities

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Human motor neuron disease model

Human motor neuron diseases are irreversible and devastating diseases for which there are no curative treatments. Animal models lack the genotypic and phenotypic features seen in human motor neuron diseases, so human-derived motor neuron models are of high interest. However, current protocols for human models require long maturation times and generate heterogenous cell populations. This limits both experimental size and data accuracy. To date, the lack of a rapid, scalable and functional *in vitro* human motor neuron model is a critical barrier in drug testing and development. This system enabling fast and scalable production of motor neurons enables the scaling necessary for large experiments, unbiased genetic screens, and cell replacement therapies.

Functional human-derived motor neurons

This proprietary process produces large numbers and pure populations of functional motor neuron cells by reprogramming human induced pleuripotent stem cells. This process better enables the translation of animal studies of motor neurons into the human context, and provides a cheaper, easier method to (a) investigate disease mechanisms; (b) screen new therapies in development; and (c) develop motor neuron cell therapies.

Advantages:

- Scalable and fast: can generate human motor neurons with native-like motor neuron function, including neurite outgrowths in pure populations in 3 weeks;
- High quality pure motor neurons: enables generation of reliable data; enhances experiments with effective fractionation of individual neuron components (i.e cell soma and neurites);
- Novel culture system: can model a variety of motor neuropathies (i.e. ALS, diabetic neuropathy, ALS) to understand disease mechanism and identify therapeutic targets.



Figures: Representative photos at various stages of the differentiation protocol